

FROM

STATE ASSEMBLYMAN

MIKE BRIGGS

29TH DISTRICT

Fresno/Tulare Counties



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teachingcalifornia teaching

As the Assistant Republican Leader in the State Assembly, reforming California's education system continues to be one of Assemblyman Mike Briggs' top priorities. Assemblyman Mike Briggs has worked hard to increase funding for education, to provide quality education for our children as well as provide substantial new resources for teachers.

Governor Signs Teacher Benefits Package

On July 5, 2000, \$2.4 billion in budget trailer bills concerning education were signed into law. This teacher recruitment and education reform package cuts teachers' taxes, increases their salaries and increases their retirement benefits.

Tax Credit

The package allows a personal income tax credit for public and private K-12 credentialed teachers. The amount of the credit depends upon the number of years in service, ranging from \$250 for a minimum of four years to \$1500 for 20 years or more.

Beginning Salaries

The minimum beginning salary for teachers will be raised from \$32,000 to \$34,000 a year.

Retirement Funds

Members of the State Teachers' Retirement System (STRS) will have 25 percent of their contributions put into a supplemental retirement account.

Attracting Qualified Teachers

The budget addresses the state's need to hire 300,000 more teachers in the next 10 years. Incentives include bonuses to National Board-certified teachers and grants to low-performing schools to attract teachers. To encourage retired teachers to return to the classroom, the statutory earnings limitation for retirees will be suspended. The bill package also provides for additional professional development and training for teachers.

Additional School Funding

The education package provides for more Advanced Placement courses and computers in high schools. The bill package also increases reimbursement rates to schools offering supplemental instruction, provides \$1.48 billion for many K-14 programs, and establishes teacher recruitment centers.

"As the father of three children in Clovis schools, I understand the need for educational excellence in our classrooms. We can accomplish this by giving teachers the tools and resources they need."

— Assemblyman Briggs

For more information, visit:

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